



AN ACT DIRECTING THE CHILDREN'S SYSTEM OF CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE SYSTEM OF CARE FOR HIGH-RISK CHILDREN WITH MULTIAGENCY SERVICE NEEDS; REQUIRING A REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the 2003 Legislature directed state agencies to develop a statewide system of care for children with multiagency service needs; and

WHEREAS, the state has worked to implement that directive by developing Kids Management Authorities in a number of communities around the state; and

WHEREAS, Kids Management Authorities have been developed through a combination of grant funds from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and state and local funds; and

WHEREAS, federal grant funds are rapidly diminishing and will run out in the next biennium, while the state and local matching requirements for those funds must be significantly increased this biennium in order to sustain Kids Management Authorities at the community level; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has provided clear direction to state agencies that treatment for children with multiagency service needs should be family centered, should attempt to provide treatment for children in their homes and communities, and should avoid out-of-home and out-of-state placements when possible; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature wants treatment for children to provide positive outcomes and value for the funds spent on treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature created a children's system of care planning committee in section 52-2-303, MCA, to oversee the development of the statewide system of care effort; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature would benefit from more information on the progress made toward a statewide system of care and from recommendations on whether this effort should be sustained, modified, or abandoned.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Report to legislature -- purpose -- requirements. (1) (a) The children's system of care planning committee established in 52-2-303 shall study progress achieved to date in developing a statewide system of care for high-risk children with multiagency service needs. The committee shall prepare a report and recommendations for the legislature and provide the information to the appropriate interim committee no later than July 1, 2010.

(b) In preparing the report, the system of care planning committee shall take special note of input from communities and from families and children involved in the system of care.

(2) The report must:

(a) detail the progress made in developing the system of care, including the communities and areas currently being served, the agencies involved in each effort, and the organizational approaches being used in the communities;

(b) provide a summary of the number of total clients served, by community, and detail the types of services being provided;

(c) provide a summary of the federal, state, and local funds spent in operating the system of care and of the cost of services provided by the system of care; and

(d) include an analysis of the effectiveness of the children's system of care, along with a summary of the barriers that exist in further developing the system of care.

(3) The recommendations must:

(a) state whether and how kids management authorities or their equivalent should be structured, staffed, and funded, including but not limited to identifying the agencies that should be involved, how their involvement could be encouraged or required, and how they could most effectively participate in the process;

(b) define a clear role for kids management authorities, including whether or how the authorities should be involved in:

(i) coordinating services to individual children at the local level;

(ii) encouraging and ensuring that state agency practices are family centered;

(iii) providing assistance and advocacy for families in navigating the array of state services for children;

(c) identify how agency funding may be better blended to provide services to multiagency children, including but not limited to an analysis of whether the state should seek waivers for use of medicaid funds or funds provided through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act;

(d) provide a clear statement of which children and family populations should be served by the system of care;

(e) define how local governments may or should be involved in the system of care; and

(f) define how and state whether the wraparound process of providing a unique set of services that are based on a child's and family's needs and strengths will be connected to the system of care, including recommendations on how the wraparound process will be provided, to whom it will be provided, who should provide it, and how it will be funded.

(4) The study and report must be completed within the budget approved for the department of public health and human services for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009.

Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2009.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 0243, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2009.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2009.

HOUSE BILL NO. 243
INTRODUCED BY HUNTER, MCGEE

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